

Attorney Docket No. 9310.13DVCTDV
Serial No.: 10/036,729
Filed: December 21, 2001
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IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as shown below. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of the claims in this application.

1-5. (Canceled).

6. (Currently amended) An isolated nucleic acid sequence encoding:

(a) a peptide immunochemically reactive with antibodies to the Epstein Barr Virus (EBV) VCA-p18 or VCA-p40 proteins, comprising an epitope of the VCA-p18 or VCA-p40 protein, encoded within the EBV open reading frames BFRF3 and BdRF1, respectively; or

~~— (b) a functional variant of said peptide described in (a), wherein said variant is immunochemically reactive with antibodies to the Epstein-Barr Virus (EBV) VCA-p18 or VCA-p40 proteins.~~

7. (Previously presented) An isolated nucleic acid sequence, comprising the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1 or a subsequence thereof, wherein said subsequence encodes an Epstein-Barr Virus peptide comprising an epitope that is immunochemically reactive with antibodies to the Epstein-Barr Virus VCA-p18 protein.

8. (Previously presented) An isolated nucleic acid sequence, comprising the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:3 or a subsequence thereof, wherein said subsequence encodes an Epstein-Barr Virus peptide comprising an epitope that is immunochemically reactive with antibodies to the Epstein-Barr Virus VCA-p40 protein.

9. (Previously presented) A vector molecule comprising the nucleic acid sequence according to claim 6.

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10-25. (Canceled).

26. (Previously presented) A vector molecule comprising the nucleic acid sequence according to Claim 7.

27. (Previously presented) A vector molecule comprising the nucleic acid sequence according to Claim 8.

28-31. (Canceled).

32. (Previously presented) An isolated nucleic acid sequence, comprising the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:1 or a subsequence thereof, wherein said subsequence encodes 12 contiguous amino acids of an Epstein-Barr Virus VCA-p18 protein and wherein said 12 contiguous amino acids comprise an epitope that is immunochemically reactive with antibodies to the Epstein-Barr Virus VCA-p18 protein.

33. (Previously presented) An isolated nucleic acid sequence, comprising the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:3 or a subsequence thereof, wherein said subsequence encodes 12 contiguous amino acids of an Epstein-Barr Virus VCA-p40 protein and wherein said 12 contiguous amino acids comprise an epitope that is immunochemically reactive with antibodies to the Epstein-Barr Virus VCA-p40 protein.

34. (Previously presented) An isolated nucleic acid sequence, comprising the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:1 or a subsequence thereof, wherein said subsequence encodes an Epstein-Barr Virus peptide comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:5 or SEQ ID NO:6 or a combination of both, wherein said peptide is immunochemically reactive with antibodies to the Epstein-Barr Virus VCA-p18 protein.